Letters to the Editor

Costly Protection

So we can't afford to protect ourselves any more? Big Brother, who boasts the latest thing in all-too-expensive missiles will be kind enough to set them up for us, not just across from us, behind the friendly fence, but right in our own front yard.

Mighty generous of him and all that, but we'd just as soon he stayed behind the fence in his own yard with his dangerous toy. It's sort of difficult to feel comfortable with this atomic monster Big Brother can set in motion by pressing a button at the moment when he thinks the button should be pressed. Doesn't even have to ask us what we think of it.

Big Brother wants to protect us, sure! Powerful nations have sometimes protected weaker ones. The idea of a "protectorate" isn't new.

Let's defend Canada with weapons we can afford: with a deeply-rooted strong democracy, with honesty in government and politics, with fearless healthy individuals, with humaneness, with an unshakable belief in freedom and human dignity, with a vision of the future. These things we can afford. In the long run they might even be more effective than a thing which, if it ever starts on its amok run, can hardly convince any possible survivors of both camps. What we cannot afford right now is allowing in our own country the gift of a mechanical monster over which we Canadians have no control. The price for that protection is too high.

If we allow this to happen, it could only mean that we have lost faith in Canada as an independent nation with a destiny of its own.

HERTA HARTMANSHENN.

R.R. 1, Sidney.

* * *

Blame for No One

With reference to the report in today's Colonist (Feb. 26) regarding the death of my boy, Duncan, I would like to say that you have not reported accurately my interview with your reporter; perhaps I was misunderstood.

I do not blame anybody or anything. In connection with TV and comics I said that the accent on bloody murder and sudden death which these media carry tends to make undue play on a child's imagination.

In connection with my warnings to my children I said that all the standard warnings and specifically warnings about experimenting or playing with ropes were constantly given.

I cannot end this letter without thanking most sincerely all our friends and neighbors who have been kindness itself to my wife and me at this dreadful time.

J. A. FAULKNER.

3365 Quadra Street.

* * *

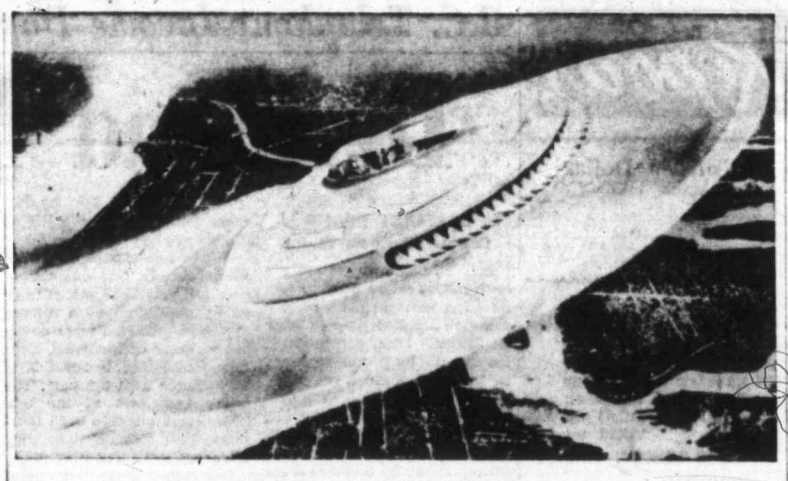
Children First

It was gratifying to read in an English newspaper several months old that an English judge refused to give a couple a divorce until proper provision had been made for the welfare of their children.

Many children of broken homes, especially where the father has remarried, suffer from want and deprivation. In most cases the standard of living is sadly reduced, especially where the mother is unable to augment the income. I sincerely think that such children are entitled to enjoy the standard of living the father is enjoying, and before any divorce is granted the judge should see that such provision is carried out.

ROBERTA E. LEE.

123 Moss Street.



Saucer Re-born from Arrow's Ashes?

Discontinuation of Avro Arrow has revived interest in the company's Flying Saucer, the experimental airship that was dropped by Liberal administration and financed by U.S. government. If design lives up to expectation, it would cross the Atlantic in 2½ hours and could hover like a helicopter, making it unnecessary to use runways at airports. Government subsidy of from $5,000,000 to $10,000,000 would be necessary for experimental work to continue.

* * *

Ottawa Subsidy

Avro Exodus May Be Halted

OTTAWA (CP) — The governor acted Friday to brake the possibile exodus of hundreds of technicians from A. V. Roe to the United States.

At the same time, it prepared to summon to Ottawa next month representatives of the Canadian defence manufacturing industry to brief them on the policy of production-sharing with the U.S. The aircraft and electronics industries are chiefly involved.

Finance Minister Fleming announced in the Commons that the government will help to preserve a nucleus of about 1,000 scientific and engineering personnel at the Malton, Ont., plants of the Roe company.

He said the government will share equally with the company the payroll cost of an "essential nucleus" of technical personnel for the next six months. By that time some company projects "should be substantially advanced."

Mr. Fleming said the action will increase employment at the plants to "approximately 3,000" from the more than 2,000 working there this week. These 2,000 are mostly non-technical personnel.

Figure represents less than half the 2,500-man technical staff laid off a week ago when the government cancelled the Arrow.

Saskatchewan Budget Balances

REGINA (CP)—Provincial Treasurer C. M. Fines pared costs from eight government departments and presented a balanced budget for 1959-60 to the Saskatchewan legislature Friday.

Mr. Fines said Saskatchewan's decision against deficit financing was made because the CCF government believes there will be a moderate recovery from recession during the next fiscal year.

The province is budgeting for a surplus of $79,770 after subtracting expenditures of $133,245,440 from revenue of $133,325,210. The 1958-59 surplus was $1,542,770 on revenue of $131,547,000.

A new 1-per-cent levy on gross production of Saskatchewan oil wells will be imposed in 1959-60, from which the province will collect $500,000. The levy is for oil taken from under road allowances.

The Saskatchewan division of the Canadian Petroleum Association refused to comment on the new levy before a bill is brought in to enact it.

Cuts ranging as high as $1,000,000 were made in spending for the departments of municipal affairs, natural resources, mineral resources, public works, highways and transportation, agriculture and the attorney-general's department.

Am I Last To Hang? —Poirier

MONTREAL (CP)—Hector Poirier, 52-year-old part-time salesman, hoped in vain that a last-minute reprieve would prevent him from going to the gallows yesterday for the bludgeon murder of Jean-Claude Perreault.

Poirier plunged through the trapdoor of the scaffold at Montreal jail after midnight Thursday and was pronounced dead 15 minutes later.

It was learned he was upset when informed Thursday that the federal cabinet had refused to interfere with the death. He was told of the cabinet's refusal by the jail warden.

"Please verify the telegram," said Poirier to the warden. "There must be some mistake."

Later he was quoted as saying to the prison chaplain: "You don't mean to tell me that I am the last man who is going to die by hanging."

He was referring to efforts to have the death penalty abolished in Canada.

Canada Warms to China

U.S. Policy Undermined

HONG KONG (UPI) —Canada has placed the United States in a precarious position over the issue of recognition of Communist China, political observers here believe.

Reports of a Canadian House of Commons debate on the subject indicates Canada was mellowing toward Red China, with at least unofficial recognition seen for the near future, if not actual recognition, they said.

Canada, until last year, was one of the staunchest supporters of American Chinese policy.

Last year, Canada sold $11,000,000 worth of products to Red China, which represented a substantial increase over the previous year. While only two Canadian businessmen visited Red China after 1949, some 60 made the trip during 1958.

Chief Urges New Police Headquarters

Jail Will Do, Station Won't

Construction of a new Victoria police station, to replace one built "in and for horse-and-buggy days," was recommended by Chief Constable John Blackstock to the city police commission yesterday.

Chief Blackstock pointed out that the jail at the rear of the existing building is fully adequate and has recently been remodelled.

Proposed station would face on Cormorant Street, and be constructed on the site of the present market building to join with the jail from that side. Present building on Fisgard, opened in 1914, could be retained for much-needed storage and workshop space.

Reasons for the recommendation center on the fact that the existing structure is outdated and overcrowded.

The charge office, the chief said, is the hub of the department, is cramped and has been inadequate for years.

The juvenile office is a single room on the main floor, in which two men must carry out all their work.

The traffic office, built in an old garage, offers no means of expansion and is difficult to heat.

Adequate at present, the detective office would soon be outgrown if work continues to increase as in the past.

All court facilities, including the courtroom itself and the office of the clerk, have been outdated for years, Chief Blackstock said.

The chief looked ahead to a developing department and an even bigger city, with the suggestion that provision should be made for a crime laboratory.

"The present building is not at all satisfactory," senior commissioner W. J. Hamilton said. "I strongly support the recommendation."

Said Acting-Mayor Arthur Dowell: "We have a new fire hall; perhaps we should have a new police station."

The recommendation was received for further study.

Mandrake's Magic Show Here Today

Mandrake the Magician will give four performances today at the Victoria High School auditorium, under the auspices of Victoria Lions Club.

Tickets can still be obtained from any Lions member or at the door during the 1.30, 3, 4 and 8 p.m. shows.

Leon Mandrake, magician, hypnotist, illusionist, mind-reader and escape artist, was a former boy assistant of the famous Harry Houdini.

End of Strike Near, Big Show Rejected

MONTREAL (CP)—The 850 members of the Union des Artistes decided by a unanimous show of hands Friday night to return to work unconditionally for the CBC, thus bringing the two-month strike by Montreal French-language television producers to the brink of settlement.

The union of artists says the CBC has rejected a suggestion for a mammoth television show to mark an end to the strike of television producers and 1,200 CBC employees respecting the producers' picket lines.

A union spokesman said the artists proposed that a show, stated by about 150 leading authors and artists, would be a striking way of marking "in a climate of peace and reconciliation the new alliance of the teams of direction and production of the French network."

* * *

At Ottawa, CBC Public Relations Director Ron Fraser said the basic idea was a good one. "However, the orginal suggestion from the union envisaged a single program costing $250,000. There was also the suggestion that a good share of this money would go to the union welfare fund.

"The CBC obviously cannot spend public funds for this purpose . . ."

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Doors 6.30
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OUTDOOR THEATRE
At 7.00 and 10.30
ZACHARY SCOTT PEGGY CASTLE
"COUNTERFEIT PLAN"
Also at 8.30
JOHN WAYNE LAUREN BACALL
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Technicolor and CinemaScope
Prices—Adults 75c
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Children (under 12) Free
New gate-opening time 6.45

ENDS TONIGHT
"YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM IT"
Musical Comedy in CinemaScope and Color
Starring JUNE ALLYSON, JACK LEMMON, CHARLES BICKFORD
Plus Cartoon and Shorts
Doors at 6.30
Complete Program at 6.50 and 9.00
Feature at 7.30 and 9.35
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